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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/815,397	03/31/2004	Ali-Reza Adl-Tabatabai	42P18152	7577
8791	7590	01/10/2008	EXAMINER	
BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN 1279 OAKMEAD PARKWAY SUNNYVALE, CA 94085-4040			WANG, RONGFA PHILIP	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2191		
		MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE
		01/10/2008		PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/815,397	ADL-TABATABAI ET AL. <i>MW</i>
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Philip Wang	2191

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 March 2004.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Detail Action

1. This office action is in response to the application filed on 3/31/2004.
2. Claims 1-28 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 5, 7, 10, 11, 14, 22, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 5 recites the limitation of "may be guarded" in "a program object that may be guarded". It is not clear if the program object is guarded or not. Claims 7, 10 depend on claim 5 and suffer the same deficiency. Claims 11, 14, 22, and 25 suffer the same deficiency for the reason above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1, 3, 4, 18, 20, 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bacon et al. (USPGPub. No. 2005/0149588).

As per claim 1,

Bacon et al. disclose

- receiving an access request for a program object; performing a combined check for a null reference and for a read barrier for the program object; and if the combined check is affirmative, performing a recovery operation (Abstract, "...meet real-time requirements combined a null-check required for an application with a null check required by its read barrier..."; [0039], lines 20-23, "...allows the null-check required by the Java object...be folded into the null-check as required by the barrier..."; [0039], lines 23-40, "...Since the pointer can be null, the barrier can not perform forwarding unconditionally...any exception...A

Art Unit: 2191

straight forward implementation...required a compare, a branch and load" where it discloses operations to handle exceptions.) .

As per claim 3,

the rejection of claim 1 is incorporated;

Bacon et al. disclose

- wherein the method is performed in a managed runtime environment (MRTE)([0039], lines 12-13, "...in connection with Java programs..."; line 26, "...the run time system...") .

As per claim 4,

the rejection of claim 1 is incorporated;

Bacon et al. disclose

- wherein the access request is a single-byte access and further comprising implementing the access request as a multiple-byte access by reading one or more preceding or succeeding bytes of data ([0027], lines 11-12, "... a reference to an array of integers is loaded and then used in a loop...") .

As per claims 18, 20, and 21, they are the machine-readable medium claims reciting the same limitations of method claims 1, 3, and 4 respectively and are rejected for the same reason set forth in connection of the rejections of claims 1, 3 and 4 above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2, 5-17, 19, and 22-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bacon et al. (USPGPub. No. 2005/0149588) in view of Arimilli et al. (US Patent No. 6,880,073).

As per claim 2,

the rejection of claim 1 is incorporated;

Bacon et al. do not specifically disclose

- performing a speculative load in response to the read request; and
- determining whether the speculative load is successful.

Art Unit: 2191

However, Arimilli et al. disclose

- performing a speculative load in response to the read request; and determining whether the speculative load is successful (c4 :38-43, "...speculation by executing instructions...load...and an acknowledgment is received.").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Arimilli et al. into the teachings of Bacon et al. to include performing a speculative load in response to the read request; and determining whether the speculative load is successful. The modification would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to want to improve processing efficiency as suggested by Arimilli et al. (see Background of Invention, "...improving processing efficiency...").

As per claim 5,

Bacon et al. disclose

- receiving a subject code, the subject code including an access to a program object that may be guarded; and compiling the subject code into machine executable code, the machine executable code including a read barrier check for the program object, ([0039], for example, lines 10-11, "...a read barrier by implementing the read

Art Unit: 2191

barrier in an optimizing compiler..." where a compiler receives program code and compiles the program code.)

- and if the read barrier check of the access fails, performing a recovery([0039], lines 23-40, "...Since the pointer can be null, the barrier can not perform forwarding unconditionally...any exception...A straight forward implementation...required a compare, a branch and load" where it discloses operations to handle exceptions.).

Bacon et al. do not specifically disclose

- the read barrier check comprising: performing a speculative load to access the program object; performing a speculation check for the speculative load.

However, Arimilli et al. disclose

- the read barrier check comprising: performing a speculative load to access the program object; performing a speculation check for the speculative load (c4:38-43, "...speculation by executing instructions...load...and an acknowledgment is received.").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Arimilli et al. into the teachings

Art Unit: 2191

of Bacon et al. to include the limitation, "the read barrier check comprising: performing a speculative load to access the program object; performing a speculation check for the speculative load." The modification would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to want to improve processing efficiency as suggested by Arimilli et al. (see Background of Invention, "...improving processing efficiency...").

As per claim 6,

the rejection of claim 5 is incorporated;

And further the combination of Bacon et al. and Arimilli disclose

- wherein the speculative load (Arimilli, c4: 38-43) operates as a combined check of a null reference and a check for the read barrier(Bacon - [0039], lines 20-23, "...allows the null-check required by the Java object...be folded into the null-check as required by the barrier...").

As per claim 7,

the rejection of claim 5 is incorporated;

Bacon et al. disclose

Art Unit: 2191

- wherein the object code is compiled for a managed runtime environment (MRTE) ([0039], lines 12-13, "...in connection with Java programs..."; line 26, "...the run time system...").

As per claim 8,

the rejection of claim 5 is incorporated;

Bacon et al. do not specifically disclose

- wherein the recovery comprises testing whether the failure of the speculative load results from an access to a program object that is guarded.

However, Arimilli et al. disclose

- wherein the recovery comprises testing whether the failure of the speculative load results from an access to a program object that is guarded (c4:38-43, "...speculation by executing instructions....barrier operation..." where barrier operation is used for guarding program object.).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Arimilli et al. into the teachings of Bacon et al. to include the limitation, "wherein the recovery comprises testing whether the failure of the speculative load results from an access to a program object that is guarded". The modification would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to

Art Unit: 2191

want to improve processing efficiency as suggested by Arimilli et al. (see Background of Invention, "...improving processing efficiency...") .

As per claim 9,

the rejection of claim 8 is incorporated;

Further the combination of Bacon et al. and Arimilli disclose

- wherein testing whether the failure of the speculative load (Arimilli, c4: 38-43) results from an access to a program object that is guarded comprises determining whether a bit for the address of the program object is set(Bacon - [0034], line 5, "...The high bit... is set...") .

As per claim 10,

the rejection of claim 5 is incorporated;

Further the combination of Bacon et al. and Arimilli disclose

- wherein the recovery comprises testing whether the failure of the speculative load (Arimilli, c4: 38-43) results from a null reference ([0039], line 20, "...allow null-check...") .

As per claims 11, 12, 14, 15, and 17, they are the system claims reciting the same

Art Unit: 2191

limitations of method claims 5-8, and 10 respectively and are rejected for the same reason set forth in connection of the rejections of claims 5-8, and 10 above.

As per claim 13,

the rejection of claim 11 is incorporated;

Bacon et al. disclose

- wherein compiling the object code comprises providing for setting a bit when a program object is guarded ([0034], line 5, "...The high bit... is set...").

As per claim 16,

the rejection of claim 15 is incorporated;

Bacon et al. disclose

- wherein testing whether the failure of the speculative load results from an access to a program object that is guarded comprises determining whether a bit for the program object is set ([0034], line 5, "...The high bit... is set...").

As per claim 19, it is the machine-readable claim corresponding to method claim 2 and is rejected for the same reason set forth in connection of the rejection of claim 2 above.

Art Unit: 2191

As per claims 22-28, they are the machine-readable claims reciting the same limitations of method claims 11-17 respectively and are rejected for the same reason set forth in connection of the rejections of claims 11-17 above.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

It is noted that any citation [[s]] to specific, pages, columns, lines, or figures in the prior art references and any interpretation of the references should not be considered to be limiting in any way. A reference is relevant for all it contains and may be relied upon for all that it would have reasonably suggested to one having ordinary skill in the art.

[[See, MPEP 2123]]

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip Wang whose telephone number is 571-272-5934. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri 8:00AM - 4:00PM. Any inquiry of general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC2100 Group receptionist: 571-272-2100.

Art Unit: 2191

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wei Zhen can be reached on 571-272-3708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


WEI ZHEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER